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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,403	10/16/2003	Daniel Kiecza	BBNT-P01-196	7815
28120 7590 03/21/2007 FISH & NEAVE IP GROUP ROPES & GRAY LLP ONE INTERNATIONAL PLACE BOSTON, MA 02110-2624			EXAMINER AZAD, ABUL K	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS			03/21/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,403

Applicant(s)

KIECZA ET AL.

Examiner

ABUL K. AZAD

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-29 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lipe et al. (US 6,931,376).

As per claim 1, Lipe teaches, “a method for interacting among a plurality of components of a speech system, the plurality of components including language technology components, a middleware component, and at least one high-level application component”, the method comprising:

“receiving substantially all data communications in the speech system at the middleware component” (col. 5, line 49-col. 6, lines 13);

“forwarding the data communications from the middleware component to a destination one of the language technology components and the high-level application component, as determined by a configuration file” (col. 5, line 49-col. 6, lines 13);

“receiving substantially all message communications in the speech system at the middleware component” (col. 5, line 49-col. 6, lines 13); and

"forwarding the message communications from the middleware component to at least one of the language technology components and the high-level application component, as determined by the configuration file" (col. 5, line 49-col. 6, lines 13).

As per claim 2, Lipe teaches, "wherein the speech and language technology components include at least one of a speech recognizer component, a speaker identification component, a topic detection component, and a name extraction component" (col. 5, line 49-col. 6, lines 13).

As per claim 3, Lipe teaches, "wherein the language technology components, the middleware component, and the at least one high-level application component are software modules that are distributed over a plurality of computing devices" (col. 5, lines 26-40).

As per claim 4, Lipe teaches, "logging errors encountered by the language technology components at the middleware component" (col. 6, lines 54-65).

As per claim 5, Lipe teaches, "wherein the middleware component presents a single system state to the high-level application component, the single system state being based on individual states of the language technology components" (col. 7, lines 1-41).

As per claim 6, Lipe teaches, "wherein the single system state is selected from: a starting up state that indicates that at least one of the language technology components is initializing, a down state that indicates that at least one of the language technology components is not available, and an up state that indicates that all of the language technology components are available" (col. 8, lines 4-63).

As per claim 7, Lipe teaches, "an aborting state that indicates that the middleware component is disconnecting from the high-level application component, and a shutting down state in which the middleware component discontinues communications with the language technology components" (col. 9, lines 37-53).

As per claim 8, Lipe teaches, "wherein the configuration file is an extensible markup language (XML) document" (col. 7, lines 21-28).

As per claim 9, Lipe teaches, "wherein the data communications are implemented as data pipes" (col. 5, lines 13-25).

As per claims 10-29, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-9.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

March 19, 2007



Abul K. Azad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2626